

The 22nd Annual General meeting of the National Association of Boat Owners held on 16th November 2013 at Wolverhampton Boat Club

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence

Received from: Louis Jankel, Graham Paterson, John and Fiona Slee, Simon Robbins, Andy Colyer, Simon Angel and Paul and Sally Klee.

2. To agree the minutes of the 2012 AGM

The minutes of last years AGM were approved. Proposed by Mark Tizard, seconded by Peter Fellows

3. To receive the Chairman's Report

Full notes attached but to start the Chairman welcomed the new Chief Executive of the Canal and River Trust Richard Parry who joined the meeting.

The Chairman singled out the contribution to NABO from Simon Robbins who had stepped down from Council after many years service. Simon was remaining London and South Eastern Representative.

Richard Carpenter was also thanks for his help on Council latterly as General Secretary over the past 10 years. Richards offer of continuing as General Secretary (a post which does not require a Council seat) was accepted. He also remains North West Representative.

Special mention was also given to Melanie Darlington who had asked to retire as Membership Secretary after carrying out this function pretty much since NABO was formed. Melanie and her husband John Darlington were founder members and John served as Chair for many years. John has also continued providing accountancy advice for many years. The meeting wished them well for their retirement.

4. To receive the Treasurers report

The report and review of audit was presented by the Hon Secretary and accepted unanimously – proposed by Howard Anguish and seconded by Peter Fellows. There were no proposals to increase fees following the new uplift earlier in the year. Initial reactions were that we might lose members as a

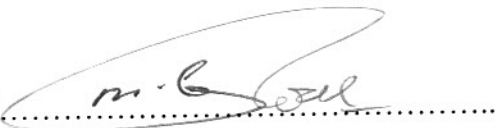
result but there has been no direct indication of that – we were of course only part way through the renewal of membership year.

5. The auditor Alan Davis was reappointed following a proposal from David Fletcher and seconded by Howard Anguish.
6. Nominations were read out for Council as follows Mike Tizard, Mike Rodd, Peter Fellows, Stephen Peters, David Fletcher, Geoffrey Rogerson and Jane Taylor. As the numbers were below the constitutional level permitted Ian Fletcher proposed that they be elected on block, this was seconded by Joan Jameson and all were voted unanimously.
7. AOB – David Fletcher agreed to continue to Chair the meeting until the new Council meet to appoint officers and conducted a general discussion which included conversation with Richard Parry who answered a range of questions and outlined his hopes and plans. Geoffrey Rogerson outlined briefly our legal issues and the ongoing discussions on to be had with CRT and inevitably the SE Mooring Issue was discussed at some length.

The promises of open meetings and a “look at everything” at CRT were welcomed.

The AGM took its normal course with information presentations from C&RT representatives on future needs, water planning, etc which were well received and interactive.

Signed.....



NABO Chair

15/11/14

**Chairman's report at the 22nd Annual General Meeting
November 2013**



Good morning.

I will start with the core internal issues that we face in running the Association. Last year we faced a substantial deficit. Your Council had already taken action to reduce costs, and seek alternative income such as advertising in NABO News. We can see that this has had the desired effect. However our cost of producing the NABO news and operational costs exceeded the membership subscription, and it was decided to increase this for the first time in many years. This took place in April this year. Your Council was all too aware that we ran the risk of a major loss of membership. This has not proved to be the case, and although our numbers are down slightly, I do have to express my appreciation to all those loyal members who have stuck with us in these challenging times.

In 2013, NABO representatives have attended a range of consultation meetings with CRT and EA, BSS, and other user groups, both nationally and locally. This is the core work of the Association, monitoring what is going on, reading the papers, listening to the presentations and making considered comments both in writing and at meetings. There have been times when we have not been able to attend meetings, particularly regional events like user group meetings. I appeal to all members to contact their regional reps, and arrange to go to these meetings, so that we can understand the local issues, and steer the Association with the benefit of this knowledge. This is really important when CRT are undertaking local initiatives, which will have national implications.

Returning to the Association, I have to express all our appreciation to regional representatives and to Council for their continued time and efforts. We are still down in numbers on Council and this is a critical issue. We are fortunate to have had three new members this year, Jane, Mark and Mike and all three are contributing significantly to the ideas and work. Two of our long term Council members have decided not to stand this year, but we hope that we can retain them as regional representatives and for their expertise. Simon Robbins has been on Council for more than ten years, and has been a key person in all matters on moorings and the London scene. His recent contribution to the GLA enquiry into moorings was a master class in boater representation. As a result of his actions this year, CRT are now listing on the web the court judgements made. Previously these were not disclosed, and boaters were unable to view and understand what Courts were saying.

Richard has also been on Council for 10 years, and general secretary for 5. He and I have worked together in my period as Chairman and I cannot speak highly enough of his efforts and contribution. In the last couple of years he has been responsible for getting the advertising sponsorship that has done much to bridge the financial gap.

But our Council numbers are less again and it is not nearly enough. Last year I said that if we could not replenish Council with a flow of new faces to take on the work, then we faced a bleak future. Please do come to a meeting and see what it is all about and how you can contribute.

Our administration and accounts have been carried out by Melanie Darlington for many years. She has said that she wishes to stop next year and we have the task of building a new team to do this work. This will inevitably mean changes to the way we manage membership, with

new people and systems to mobilise. I am still looking for volunteers for this work, hoping to build a team around a web based system so that the full workload does not fall on one person. Can you help with this? I would appeal to members to take responsibility for managing the subscriptions. Melanie spends a considerable time and effort managing wrong or late payments.

Our membership numbers are still dropping a little and my thanks go to all those who have recruited new members. Some churn of membership is a fact of life for all organisations. New members usually join us by the web site and PayPal, so we are not printing membership forms as in the past. We have some new flyers to hand out and if you would take a few, and recruit a few members, all to the good. We did not attend Crick again this year for the second year, partly because Council members were not available for the four days, and anyway we doubted the cost effectiveness of this. It is more than £1000 to attend, and we suspect that many of the recruits gained from these exercises do not stay long-term, perhaps only one year. With universal tight budgets a fact of life, there remains an issue over short-term gratification, which we do not offer, and we cannot compete with the blogs and professional waterways press. But we know that steady representative pressure over a long period can have an effect on navigation authorities, and this is our strength and success. The launch of the ACC is an interesting development, and we may lose some recruitment opportunity here, but overall this does not concern me. NABO is a broad church, and has always worked well alongside the smaller specialist organisations like RBOA, TBA and DBA. I wish them well.

NABO News remains our main communication with membership. Peter Fellows is our Editor and he has been in the hot seat for more than two years, and I wish to thank him for his magnificent contribution. Can we all please show our appreciation for Peter and his team for their fantastic work.

We have restarted using email as a means of communication. The web site facilities make this possible, and there have been 6 bulletins this year, to let you know what the officers are up to. This is the largest distribution we have ever made, but we still have over two hundred members for which we have no valid address. We still have to consider these members needs, so we are far from an electronic only communication system.

The website is functioning though we are at a time when we need to consider upgrades and changes particularly surrounding the administration system. The site feeds to Twitter and Facebook and we continue to experiment in these areas. It does get our name out there and all advice is to continue with this, particularly Twitter. Are there any Twitter experts out there to help. A little guidance here could make a big difference to membership.

As always it is important that we have a balanced view from members, so please do take the time to let us know what you are thinking. Your Council are active in seeking views, but we can always use more.

We are currently active with issues concerning the London, SE and K&A mooring strategies, the legal implications of these, Hire boat code update with BSS and boater safety issues, EA registration increases and service levels. These sorts of issues will impact on all boaters, whether hiring, owning, home moorings or continuous cruisers and we should not sit idly by whilst changes are made that do not suit us.

Specifically on CRT legal issues, Geoffrey and other Council members have been considering the legal implications since summer, CRT have set aside our responses on legality issues, citing 1962 enabling legislation without evidence based justification. Specifically sign posting no return rules and overstay charges despite our written comments and protestations. This will be the subject of campaigning in the coming year. My thanks to Geoffrey and Mark for leading this.

The first year of the CRT has brought opportunities. NABO was involved with candidates for CRT Council and at least two Partnership places, without success. I sit on NAG operations,

and that has been a good forum, apolitical and focused very much on navigation and safety issues. I have been constantly concerned about conflict of interest in this, and will be more relaxed in this next year when I will no longer be NABO Chairman.

We have tried to maintain relationships with some of the new Trustees, and the Council boater representatives and many of these receive NABO News. We deliberately write pieces to send messages to the outside world as well as our members. The Partnership activity is very mixed and I ask all members to monitor what is going on in your areas, and let us know about the good and bad. Plans are now being published and annual meetings held. What is happening to your waterway? Of course these are not about navigation issues, but the wider picture of gathering support for the waterways in local environments.

We should not forget EA has its issues too. Firstly came the announcement that Navigation would be not be transferred to CRT in 2015. A disappointment to many, but not a surprise to me. There was no business case, and the cost to Government of funding the CRT risk was unupportable. But the EA are still under big cost pressures directly from Central Government and boaters are being asked to subsidise Government though registration increases.

There is a nice contrast between CRT and EA over licence fees - CRT holding increases to the Consumer Price Index, and EA in a cycle up to 2015 with 2% over - and little sympathy with the impact on private boaters. We all know that boating is a discretionary activity, and if we are to attract new boaters, to buy or hire there must be confidence that future costs are affordable.

As I said last year and the year before, we have not always been able to cover all the consultation meetings and there is always a need for more members to support this work and share the load. Please do volunteer. If nobody attends, we do not get the information and get out of touch, and we miss an opportunity of networking and applying pressure over a range of issues.

So in conclusion, there is much to be done in the coming year, both in consultation and for internal NABO business. We are needed, for other user groups are focused in a different way and we have that unique selling point. Your Council need help to carry this on and secure the future. I have very much enjoyed being your Chairman for the last five years and I thank you for your support and the opportunities the role has provided.

This concludes my report.

David Fletcher

NABO Audit at 31st March 2014

Auditor's Report to the Members of the National Association of Boat Owners

I have examined the Books and Records of the Association and am satisfied from the information presented to me that the Financial Statements give a true and fair view both of the Association's funds at 31st March 2014 and the deficit for the year ended on that date.

Financial Control Issues – 2014 Audit

From information given to me and from ensuing discussions with the Accountants, no new financial control issues arose during the course of the 2014 Audit.

Signed:

11th November 2014



Alan C Davis, FCCA,

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2014

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

31 MARCH 2014

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED

	Note	31.03.14	31.03.13
		£	£
INCOME			
Membership Fees	1	13,993	12,802
Donations		616	702
Loss on Merchandise Sales		0	-54
Advertising Revenue		1,250	2,250
Deposit Interest	2	7	8
Other Income	3	154	180
		<u>16,020</u>	<u>15,888</u>
LESS EXPENSES			
Printing & Distribution of Newsletter		6,777	9,858
Rallies & Marketing Expenditure		593	931
Printing, Postage & Stationery		814	892
Telephone and Office Expenses		8	138
Travelling & Conference Expenses		5,132	2,679
Room Hire & Meeting Expenses		610	522
Subscriptions & Donations		250	0
Insurance		1,308	1,501
Secretarial & Computer Support		2,344	1,424
Accountancy costs		361	363
Storage Costs		0	0
Legal Costs		0	2,400
Web Site Costs		192	208
Bank Charges		37	25
Bad debts		250	0
Sundry Expenses		2	14
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	4	338	618
		<u>19,016</u>	<u>21,573</u>
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		<u>-2,996</u>	<u>-5,685</u>
Corporation Tax		0	-2
		<u><u>-2,996</u></u>	<u><u>-5,687</u></u>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

31 MARCH 2014

BALANCE SHEET

		31.03.14		31.03.13	
	Note	£	£	£	£
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	4		764		1,103
CURRENT ASSETS	5	20,283		20,764	
AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN 1 YEAR	6	-16,054		-13,878	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			4,229		6,886
TOTAL NET ASSETS			<u>4,993</u>		<u>7,989</u>
RESERVES					
Reserves brought forward			7,989		13,676
Excess of Expenditure over Income			-2,996		-5,687
Reserves carried forward			<u>4,993</u>		<u>7,989</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees are shown net of a reserve for advance subscriptions. At any time the Association has a commitment to each member to provide a service for the length of time up to his or her renewal date. The reserve accounts for this commitment. The reserve for advance subscriptions is shown in note 6.

2. DEPOSIT INTEREST

Deposit interest is received gross. Provision for Corporation Tax has been made against this and other profits at the appropriate rate and included under current liabilities.

3. OTHER INCOME

Other income includes £280 (2013: £180) of credit balances on Members accounts which arose prior to 31 March 2008 (2013: prior to 31 March 2007).

4. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	TOTAL £	Office Equipment £	Other Fixtures £
Cost Brought Forward	11,456	8,239	3,217
Additions	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
Cost Carried Forward	<u>11,456</u>	<u>8,239</u>	<u>3,217</u>
Depreciation Brought Forward	10,353	8,061	2,292
Charge for Period	339	178	161
Disposals	0	0	0
Depreciation Carried Forward	<u>10,692</u>	<u>8,239</u>	<u>2,453</u>
NET BOOK VALUE at end of year	764	0	764
Net Book Value Last Year	<u>1,103</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>925</u>

	31.03.14 £	31.03.13 £
5. CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock of Merchandise	0	0
Stock of Promotional goods & Stationery	200	460
Membership fees owing	1,150	338
Debtors & Prepayments	560	1,815
Bank Current Accounts	5,622	4,407
Bank Deposit Account	12,751	13,744
	<u>20,283</u>	<u>20,764</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Notes	31.03.14 £	31.03.13 £
6. AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN 1 YEAR			
Trade Creditors		190	102
Accruals		4,589	4,613
Advance Subscriptions		8,136	6,204
Members Credit balances		3,129	2,949
Corporation Tax	2	10	10
		<u>16,054</u>	<u>13,878</u>

7. BOOKS OF ACCOUNT

All members are welcome to inspect the Association's financial records at any time mutually convenient to the member and the Treasurer. Please contact the Treasurer if you want to exercise this right.